THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AF-FAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRl EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Information is being collected, and to the extent available and admissible under the Rules will be laid on the Table of the House.

Import of edible oils on FOB basis

3618. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred' Question 2452 given in the Rajya Sabha; on the lst December, 1988 and state;

(a) whether the terms of purchases of edible oils have been finalised by STC and if so, what are the details thereof and if not by when the said' terms of purchases are likely to be finalised;

(b) the action taken/proposed to be taken on the representation made to the Prime Minister in this regard; and

(c) the total quantity and value of the edible oils that were imported °n FOB basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE rN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAs MUNSHI): (a) to (c) In pursuance of the decision that STC should resume, on a trial basis, imports of certain edible oils (RBD pal_m oil and neutralised palm oil) from Malaysia/ Indonesia *om* FOB' basis, the terms of such purchase were finalised by STC in consultation with Transchart and sent to foreign suppliers in South East Asia re gion. Though these terms were not fully accepted by the suppliers, STC had unilaterally decided in December; 1988 to purchase neutralised palm oil and* RBD pate oil cm FOB- basis only. While taking these decisions, the point made on this subject in the representa tion made to the-Prime Minister was kept in view.

After the decision to purchase on FOB basis only; there has been- $_n$o import by STC of neutralised palm oil'and RBD' palm- oil ino view of tWlarger availability of substitute indigenous oils on ~~price~~s I lower than what has °«en fixed by Go- vernment for sale of imported oils.

Foreign hospitality for Indian citizens

3619. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS-b_e pleased to state:

(a) what are the categories of persons required to seek prior permission of the Central Government for accepting any foreign hospitality while visiting a foreign country;

(b) whether an ordinary citizen of India is also required to obtain any permission; and

(c) if not, whether it is absolutely irt order that an ordinary citizen can go anywhere in the world without any foreign, exchange and can be looked after by his friends/relation at all times?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFATRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM); (a) Members of a Legislature, Office bearers of a political party, Iudges, Government Servants or employees of any Corporation are required to seek prior permission of the Central Government under section 9 of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act,. 1976 before accepting any foreign hospitality while visiting a foreign conntry.

(b) No, Sir. unless any person or class of persons, irof- specified in section 9'of[1]'the said Act is required u/s 10(d) thereof to obtain-$prio_r$ permission of the Central Government befor6 accepting any-foreign hospitality

(c) Unless a citizen of India is covered in the category of persons mentioned in reply to part (a) and (b) above, provisions of Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 will not be attracted. Similarly, no violation takes place under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973-.when an Indian citizen whether or- dinary or otherwise, goes abroad without any foreign exchange and is looked after by his friends/relation at all times.